

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

an image reading device configured to read an image of an original document;

an image forming device configured to form an image on a sheet in accordance with image data read by the image reading device;

an operation unit connecting device configured to detachably connect an operation unit, said operation unit being configured to accept inputting of operational instructions for operating the image forming apparatus and to connect to the image forming apparatus via the operation unit connecting device;

a process controller configured to control an operation of at least one of the image reading device and the image forming device; and

an expansion unit connecting device configured to connect an additionally attachable expansion unit, said additionally attachable expansion unit including an expansion control device and being configured to further connect to the operation unit detached from the image forming apparatus, wherein

said additionally attachable expansion unit connects to the image forming apparatus via the expansion unit connecting device, [[and]]

while the additionally attachable expansion unit is determined to be connected to the expansion unit connecting device, the expansion control device controls the at least one of the image reading device and the image forming device,

only the expansion control device controls the operation of the image reading device and the image forming device when the additionally attachable expansion unit, which includes the expansion control device, is connected to the expansion unit connecting device,

and

when the additionally attachable expansion unit is not connected to the expansion unit connecting device, said process controller controls one of the image reading device and the image forming device to operate based on the operational instructions inputted to the operation unit.

2. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said process controller includes,

a memory configured to store at least two control programs for controlling the image forming apparatus,

an extension unit detecting device configured to detect a presence of connection of the additionally attachable expansion unit, and

a control program selecting device configured to select an applicable control program to be used by the process controller in accordance with the detection result of the extension unit detecting device.

3. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an extension unit detecting device configured to detect a presence of connection of the additionally attachable expansion unit; and

a power saving mode setting device configured to set a power saving mode to the image forming apparatus,

wherein said power saving mode setting device is configured to determine sections of the image forming apparatus to operate under the power saving mode in accordance with the detection result of the extension unit detecting device.

4. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said extension unit detecting device is configured to detect the presence of the connection of the additionally attachable expansion unit by determining if any unit is connected to the expansion unit connecting device.

5. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said extension unit detecting device is configured to detect the presence of the connection of the additionally attachable expansion unit by determining if any unit is connected to the expansion unit connecting device.

6. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said extension unit detecting device is configured to detect the presence of the connection of the additionally attachable expansion unit by determining that the additionally attachable expansion unit is connected when the operation unit is not connected to the operation unit connecting device, and by determining that the additionally attached expansion unit is not connected when the operation unit is connected to the operation unit connecting device.

7. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said extension unit detecting device is configured to detect the presence of the connection of the additionally attachable expansion unit by determining that the additionally attachable expansion unit is connected when the operation unit is not connected to the operation unit connecting device, and by determining that the additionally attachable expansion unit is not connected when the operation unit is connected to the operation unit connecting device.

8. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the expansion unit connecting device includes a data transferring device configured to communicate the image data and the control commands with the additionally attachable expansion unit, and a bus selecting device configured to select a data transfer destination in accordance with whether the image data or the control commands are received by the data transferring device.

9. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image reading device includes a contact image sensor, and said image forming apparatus includes a color identification data adding device configured to add color identification data to image data read by the contact image sensor, said color identification data indicating a location and a color component.

10. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

a read image data processing device configured to apply image processing to the image data read by the image reading device;

a write image data processing device configured to convert the image data into a signal driving the image forming apparatus and configured to apply image processing to the signal required along with the converting process; and

a supervising device configured to supervise data input and output to and from the process controller,

wherein said expansion unit connecting device includes a bus configured to communicate data and a bus interface for the bus, and

at least the read image processing device, the write image processing device, the supervising device, the bus interface and the bus selecting device are arranged on a same chip.

11. (Currently Amended) An image forming system, comprising:

an image forming apparatus including an image reading device configured to read an image of an original document, an image forming device configured to form an image on a sheet in accordance with image data read by the image reading device, an operation unit connecting device configured to detachably connect an operation unit, said operation unit being configured to accept inputting of operational instructions for operating the image forming apparatus and to connect to the image forming apparatus via the operation unit connecting device, a process controller configured to control an operation of at least one of the image reading device and the image forming device; and

an expansion unit connecting device configured to connect an additionally attachable expansion unit, said additionally attachable expansion unit including an expansion control device and being configured to further connect to the operation unit detached from the image forming apparatus, wherein

said additionally attachable expansion unit connects to the image forming apparatus via the expansion unit connecting device, [[and]]

while the additionally attachable expansion unit is determined to be connected to the expansion unit connecting device, the expansion control device controls the at least one of the image reading device and the image forming device,

only the expansion control device controls the operation of the image reading device and the image forming device when the additionally attachable expansion unit, which

includes the expansion control device, is connected to the expansion unit connecting device,
and

when the additionally attachable expansion unit is not connected to the expansion unit
connecting device, said process controller controls one of the image reading device and the
image forming device to operate based on the operational instructions inputted to the
operation unit.

12. (Previously Presented) The image forming system according to claim 11,
wherein

said operation unit is connected to the expansion unit connecting device,

said expansion control device of the expansion unit connecting device includes a first
control device configured to control an operation of the operation unit,

said process controller of the image forming apparatus includes a second control
device configured to control the operation of the operation unit, and

said image forming system further includes an operation selecting device configured
to select one of the first and second control devices.

13. (Previously Presented) The image forming system according to claim 12,
wherein said operation selecting device is configured to select one of the first and second
devices in accordance with a processing load on the expansion control device.

14. (Previously Presented) The image forming system according to claim 12,
wherein said additionally attachable expansion unit is configured to engage with at least one
function adding unit, said at least one function adding unit adding at least one function to the
image forming system under control of the expansion control device, and said operation

selecting device selects one of the first and second devices in accordance with a number of function adding units connected to the additionally attachable expansion unit.

15. (Previously Presented) The image forming system according to claim 11, wherein

said additionally attachable expansion unit includes a first image memory configured to store first image data,

said image forming apparatus includes an image memory connecting device configured to connect a second image memory configured to store second image data, and

said additionally attachable expansion unit includes a storage control device configured to recognize and store the first image data having a same format as the second image data to be stored in the second image memory.

16. (Previously Presented) The image forming system according to claim 11, wherein said expansion control device is configured to control the additionally attachable expansion unit only when power is to be supplied to the expansion unit connecting device.

17-23. (Cancelled).

24. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium, including computer executable instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method for controlling an image forming apparatus including an image reading device configured to read an image of an original document, an image forming device configured to form an image on a sheet in accordance with image data read by the image reading device, an operation unit connecting device configured to detachably connect an operation unit, said

operation unit being configured to accept inputting of operational instructions for operating the image forming apparatus and to connect to the image forming apparatus via the operation unit connecting device, a process controller configured to control an operation of at least one of the image reading device and the image forming device, and an expansion unit connecting device configured to connect an additionally attachable expansion unit, said additionally attachable expansion unit including an expansion control device, the method comprising:

storing at least one control program in a memory, said at least one control program being used by the process controller to control an operation of the image forming apparatus;

detecting a presence of connection of the additionally attachable expansion unit that is configured to connect to the operation unit detached from the image forming apparatus, the additionally attachable expansion unit being connected to the image forming apparatus via the expansion unit connecting device;

selecting a control program used by the process controller in accordance with a detection result;

controlling the image forming apparatus using the selected control program;

controlling by said process controller one of the image reading device and the image forming device to operate based on the operational instructions inputted to the operation unit when the additionally attachable expansion unit is not connected to the expansion unit connecting device; and

while the additionally attachable expansion unit is determined to be connected to the expansion unit connecting device, controlling by the expansion control device the at least one of the image reading device and the image forming device, wherein

only the expansion control device controls the operation of the image reading device and the image forming device when the additionally attachable expansion unit, which includes the expansion control device, is connected to the expansion unit connecting device.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, further comprising:
setting a power saving mode to the image forming apparatus,
wherein the setting includes determining sections of the image forming apparatus to
operate under the power saving mode in accordance the detection result.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein said detecting
includes detecting the presence of the connection of the additionally attachable expansion
unit by determining if any unit is connected to the expansion unit connecting device.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the detecting
includes detecting the presence of the connection of the additionally attachable expansion
unit by determining that the additionally attachable expansion unit is connected when the
operation unit is not connected to the operation unit connecting device, and by determining
that the additionally attachable expansion unit is not connected when the operation unit is
connected to the operation unit connecting device.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, further comprising:
communicating, by the expansion unit connecting device including a data transfer
device, the image data and the control commands with the additionally attachable expansion
unit; and

selecting a data transfer destination in accordance with whether the image data or the
control commands are received by the data transferring device.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, further comprising:

reading the image, by the image reading device including a contact image sensor; and
adding color identification data to image data read by the contact image sensor, said
color identification data indicating a location and a color component.

30-33. (Cancelled).

34. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further
comprising:

the operation unit, wherein

the operation unit is connected to the operation unit connecting device when the
additionally attachable expansion unit is not attached to the image forming apparatus, and

the operation unit is connected to the additionally attachable expansion unit when the
additionally attachable expansion unit is attached to the image forming apparatus.

35. (Previously Presented) The image forming system according to claim 11, further
comprising:

the operation unit, wherein

the operation unit is connected to the operation unit connecting device when the
additionally attachable expansion unit is not attached to the image forming apparatus, and

the operation unit is connected to the additionally attachable expansion unit when the
additionally attachable expansion unit is attached to the image forming apparatus.

36. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to according to
claim 1, wherein

said process controller is configured to receive a control command from the operation unit when the operation unit is attached to the image forming apparatus, and to receive the control command from the additionally attachable expansion unit when the additionally attachable expansion unit is attached to the image forming apparatus and the operation unit is attached to the additionally attachable expansion unit, the operation unit being detached from the image forming apparatus and attached to the additionally attachable expansion unit when the additionally attachable expansion unit controls the operation of the at least one of the image reading device and the image forming device.

37. (Previously Presented) The image forming system according to claim 11, wherein said process controller is configured to receive a control command from the operation unit when the operation unit is attached to the image forming apparatus, and to receive the control command from the additionally attachable expansion unit when the additionally attachable expansion unit is attached to the image forming apparatus and the operation unit is attached to the additionally attachable expansion unit, the operation unit being detached from the image forming apparatus and attached to the additionally attachable expansion unit when the additionally attachable expansion unit controls the operation of the at least one of the image reading device and the image forming device.

38. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, further comprising:
receiving, by the process controller, a control command from the operation unit when the operation unit is attached to the image forming apparatus, and from the additionally attachable expansion unit when the additionally attachable expansion unit is attached to the image forming apparatus and the operation unit is attached to the additionally attachable expansion unit, the operation unit being detached from the image forming apparatus and

attached to the additionally attachable expansion unit when the additionally attachable expansion unit controls the operation of the at least one of the image reading device and the image forming device.

39. (Currently Amended) An expansion unit for connecting to an image forming apparatus, the image forming apparatus including a process controller configured to control an operation of at least one of an image reading device and an image forming device, of the image forming apparatus, the expansion unit comprising:

an operation unit connecting device configured to detachably connect an operation unit, said operation unit being configured to accept inputting of operational instructions for operating the image forming apparatus;

an image forming apparatus connector to connect the expansion unit to the image forming apparatus;

an expansion control device configured to control the at least one of the image reading device and the image forming device of the image forming apparatus via the process controller included in the image forming apparatus, wherein

while the expansion unit is determined to be connected to the image forming apparatus, the expansion control device controls the at least one of the image reading device and the image forming device,

only the expansion control device controls the operation of the image reading device and the image forming device when the expansion unit is connected to the image forming apparatus, and

when the expansion unit is not connected to the image forming apparatus, the process controller controls one of the image reading device and the image forming device to operate based on the operational instructions inputted to the operation unit.

40. (Previously Presented) The expansion unit according to claim 39, wherein the expansion control device is configured to control the at least one of the image reading device and the image forming device of the image forming apparatus via the process controller which is configured to receive a control command from the operation unit when the operation unit is attached to the image forming apparatus, and to receive the control command from the expansion unit when the expansion unit is attached to the image forming apparatus and the operation unit is attached to the expansion unit, the operation unit being detached from the image forming apparatus and attached to the expansion unit when the expansion unit controls the operation of the at least one of the image reading device and the image forming device.